



Wildlands Update for October

Alaska Day:
On October 18, 1867, Alaska
was formally transferred to
the United States.

General Recreation Notes

Please remember snow and blizzards can happen at any time during October. Dress appropriately and be prepared.

Do not harass wildlife: View and photograph them from a distance. Many animals such as sea otters are busily storing up fat reserves for the winter. The more animals are disturbed, the less time they have to store-up fat and the more energy they are forced to use. Remember, the energy and fat these animals are forced to burn could determine whether they survive the winter.

Kachemak Bay Sea Otter Die-off: Do not approach sea otters, regardless of their situation. If you suspect there is a problem, contact Kachemak Bay research facility at (907) 235-6377 or Islands and Ocean Visitor Center at (907) 235-6961.

Volcano Watch: Fourpeaked Volcano, 38 miles due south from Mt Augustine and just inside Katmai NP, went active mid-September. For updates visit <http://www.avo.alaska.edu/activity/Fourpeaked.php>.

Auroral Activity: The Northern Lights are now visible. Check <http://www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast/>.

Campground Closures

A few state campgrounds remain open, but are scheduled to close this month.

Those campgrounds still open are primarily located along the Sterling Highway. For updates go to www.dnr.state.ak.us or call (907) 269-8400. Reservations have ended, but Forest Service campgrounds such as Russian River, Quartz Creek and Hope area campgrounds remain open until snowfall. For updates go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/> or call (907) 224-3374 (Seward District), (907) 783-3242 (Glacier District). Once campgrounds close, water and toilets will not be available. Backcountry camping is allowed.

Alaska State Park Campground Hosts and Volunteers

Many agencies open their application process for the next summer season beginning October 1. Check out the state web site for more information at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/vip/geninfo.htm>

Construction & Road Closures:

The Crow Creek road remains closed to vehicular traffic due to road damage caused by a slide and continued instability in the area. Repairs are slated for Sept. 29 to Oct. 6 which may impact pedestrian access along the road. Call (907) 783-3242 for updates. The Parks Highway from Milepost 204 to Milepost 205 will see road construction until October 10. There will also be construction from Milepost 275 to Milepost 277 until Oct 15. Dial 511 in Alaska and (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska or visit <http://511.alaska.gov/>.

Alaska State Parks

Chena River State Recreation Area has opened the Compeau Trail, a new multi-use trail which begins at mile 29.9 of the Chena Hot Springs Rd.

Chugach State Park

All trails are open. Be prepared for rain, cold, and possible blizzards in the backcountry. For updates go to <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/chugach>, or call (907) 345-5014.

Eklutna

Lakeside Trail is open for ATV's on Sunday through Wednesday only.

Hatcher Pass

The road over the pass to Willow and the Independence Mine Visitor Center are closed for the winter.

Denali State Park

For information contact the Mat/Su Area Office at (907) 745-3975.

Kachemak Bay

A few water-taxis will continue to operate this winter and at least one yurt may remain open. Cabins will not be maintained on a regular basis. Call (907) 262-5581 or (907) 235-7024 for updates.

Some good websites

Alaska outdoor information:
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>
Alaska weather information:
<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>
Alaska Volcano Observatory :
<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>
Sunrise-Sunset:
<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>
Road Conditions:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

Detailed Information for Alaska's State Parks

For more information about AK State Parks, call (907) 269-8400. Call (907) 745-3975 for Mat-Su State Park info or (907) 495-6273 for Nancy Lake Ranger Station. State Parks current events can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

Bureau of Land Management

For the latest information on issues surrounding the NPR-A go to <http://www.blm.gov/ak/>

National Park Service Kenai Fjords National Park

Trails are still open. Some cruises on Resurrection Bay will continue throughout the winter, weather-permitting. Year-round shuttle service with some tours. Guided hikes have ended and the Exit Glacier Visitor Center is now closed for the winter. For further information call (907) 224-7500 or visit the website: <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>.

Denali National Park and Preserve

The Murie Science and Learning Center will be open all winter from 10am-4pm. Riley Creek campground will remain open, but without services. Flight-seeing and glacier landings are still available, weather-permitting. For further information call (907) 683-2294 in Denali NP or (907) 733-2231 in Talkeetna. Also visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena>.

Wrangell-St Elias Park and Preserve

The McCarthy and Nabesna roads are in good condition. It's a great time to drive in, weather-permitting. Nabesna road is maintained year-round. Call (907) 822-5234 or visit www.nps.gov/wrst.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge winter hours, from Labor Day through May, are weekdays 8:00am-4:30pm and weekends 10:00am-5:00 pm. The Visitor Contact Station is closed. For information on Environmental Education programs go to

<http://kenai.fws.gov/educators.htm> National Forest Service Chugach National Forest

Night closure on Russian River has been lifted. Although public access to lands along the Russian River is now open, it is important to remember to be "Bear Aware." Secure coolers in vehicles, and place all human and pet food as well as garbage in bear-resistant containers. Throw fish carcasses and entrails into deep water, or in designated receptacles. Never try to reclaim a fish from a bear. If a bear shows up while you are landing a fish, cut the line and allow the fish to escape. Help prevent bears from making the connection between people and food.

Outhouses are available at the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center and Moose Flats year round. Walk-in camping is allowed in the winter, but no services are provided. For more info call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242, or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374.



Boy Scouts construct new classroom shelves for Anchorage Center

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach> Southcentral Visitor Centers Eagle River Nature Center

Albert loop trail is closed until freeze-up or bear hibernation. Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road, ERNC is open Fridays & weekends 10am-5pm. During the winter, ERNC staff conduct field trips emphasizing snow studies, winter survival and animal tracking. During spring, field trips focus on plants, birds or insects. Reserve early, as April and May fill up. There is a \$5.00 parking fee that is not covered by the Alaska State Parks day use pass. Call (907) 694-2108 for more information. Check their website for a complete calendar at <http://www.ernc.org> or call (907) 694-2108 for more

information.

Campbell Creek Science Center

The center is open Monday through Friday 7:30am-4pm. For a calendar of events and further information call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/events.html>

Begich Boggs Visitor Center

On October 28, bring the kids to the Halloween Spooktacular, "Alien Invaders." Located near Portage Glacier, the visitor center is open weekends from 10:00am to 5:00pm through May 26. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information.

http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

A self-guided tour featuring sculpted models of wildlife and interactive stations simulates a journey through the nation's most far-reaching wildlife refuge. There is a full calendar of programs for October on the web site. The visitor center is open daily 9:00am-6:00pm. Admission and all programs are free. For more information call (907) 235-6961 or visit <http://www.islandsandoocean.org/>.

Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

The downtown Anchorage location is open 10:00am-5:00pm weekdays during the winter. Stop by to enjoy the exhibits and movies. Call (907) 271-2737 or go to <http://www.nps.gov/anch> for more information.

Alaska Public Lands Information Center in downtown Fairbanks is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm. Call (907) 456-0527 for more information.

Southeast Alaska Discovery Center located in Ketchikan is open Thursday-Friday noon-4:00pm, Saturday-Sunday 10am-4pm. Call (907) 228-6220 for more information. <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/districts/discoverycenter/>

The *Tok Center* location is open Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm, (closed for lunch between noon-1pm). Call (907) 883-5667 for more information.

usgs & nps photos Updated 10/2/06